

## **TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S 2004 REPORT**

Once again, it is with pride and pleasure that I present to you the 2004 Annual Report on behalf of the Board of Selectmen. Herein we have strived to provide to you an informative and complete Annual Report outlining how your tax dollars were expended during the past year.

As we look back on 2004 we note the untimely death of Selectman Arthur Bartholomew – a superb Selectman and a special individual whom we miss greatly.

And as we look forward to 2005 and beyond, we note the end of direct municipal service for Board of Selectmen Chairman Steve Huss, who has served the community with great skill and business acumen for over ten years as a Selectman. We wish Steve well in future endeavors.

Having served as town administrator in four other municipalities, I can assure you Holderness has enjoyed great leadership and management at the Board of Selectmen level in recent years. Also, I know each municipal employee daily strives to provide excellent service to the taxpayers, citizens, and visitors of Holderness. I continue to feel it is an honor and a privilege to serve you as Town Administrator in such a beautiful location and with such special people.

I want to thank Steve Huss specifically, and also the other Selectmen, for their support and counsel during 2004. Finally, I want to thank my fellow Holderness town employees for a job well done and thank you, the citizens of Holderness, for allowing me the privilege of serving you.

Respectfully submitted,  
R. Paul Weston, Town Administrator  
Town of Holderness



*Town Office Staff – Left to right: Town Administrator Paul Weston,  
Bookkeeper Nicholas DeRuvo, Municipal Secretary Dee Canavan,  
Deputy Tax Collector/Deputy Town Clerk Alicia Abbott,  
Tax Collector/Town Clerk Ellen King.*

## **HOLDERNESS TOWN BEACH 2004 REPORT**

Although the name of the road to the Town Beach changed from Livermore Cove Road to Dirt Road our Town Beach remains a terrific resource for all of us.

In 2004, 217 beach passes were purchased. Beach passes for 2005 are available and can be purchased at the Town Hall. Be sure to pick up a one page Town Beach Rules and Regulations handout and review it with everyone in your family. Our facility is an enjoyable place to spend some quality Lake time and we certainly appreciate all the folks who continue to follow the Beach etiquette.

From June 15 through Labor Day, a beach attendant was on duty from 10:00 AM until 5:00 PM. The duties of the beach attendant include monitoring the use of the beach by Holderness residents/taxpayers and their guests, and enforcing the rules of the use of the Beach as stated in the Rules and Regulations sheet supplied with the purchase of a Holderness Beach Pass. The Beach Attendants are not lifeguards, and although they have the authority to enforce the rules and regulations of the use of the Beach and its facilities, they are not hired as, nor necessarily are qualified, as lifeguards.

In addition to a fine, sandy beach, the Town Beach provides swing sets, picnic tables, a raft, porta-potties, and a changing room. A public phone is provided for limited local calls and emergency use. Although trash receptacles are provided, we are appreciative of the many beach goers who complied with our "carry-in and carry-out" policy.

Peter Furmanick and the crew from the Public Works Department did a great job in helping us get the beach ready in the spring and working to improve the parking lot area. The Beach was set up and closed down this season by volunteers from the Recreation Board of Directors and by students from the Holderness School. This involved setting out the raft, the swim lines, putting up the swings, and raking the beach in the Spring; then in the Fall, putting everything away for the winter.

We thank the many users of the Beach for their support and help in maintaining a wonderful facility.

Respectfully submitted,  
Tom Stepp (Chairman)  
George (Biff) Sutcliffe (Secretary)  
Sam Laverack (Selectman Liaison)  
Peter Durnan  
Jay Fogarty  
Wendy Mersch  
Janis Messier  
Marty Riehs  
Wendy Werner (Recreation Director)

## **HOLDERNESS COMPLIANCE OFFICER 2004 REPORT**

### **2004 PERMITS**

|                             |     |
|-----------------------------|-----|
| WELLS .....                 | 3   |
| COTTAGES.....               | 6   |
| HOUSES.....                 | 22  |
| ADDITIONS.....              | 11  |
| ALTERATIONS/REPAIRS .....   | 16  |
| PORCH .....                 | 11  |
| SHEDS.....                  | 7   |
| SIGNS.....                  | 1   |
| GARAGES.....                | 9   |
| SEPTIC SYSTEM, NEW .....    | 31  |
| SEPTIC SYSTEM, REPAIR ..... | 7   |
| BARNs .....                 | 2   |
| DEMOLITION .....            | 10  |
| PARKING LOT .....           | 1   |
| MOBIL HOME.....             | 1   |
| COMMERCIAL BLD .....        | 3   |
| DECKs .....                 | 4   |
| <br>                        |     |
| APPLICATIONS REVIEWED ..... | 145 |
| PERMITS ISSUED.....         | 143 |
| DENIED.....                 | 2   |
| VARIANCES GRANTED .....     | 1   |

Respectfully submitted  
Richard Mardin  
Fire Chief/Compliance Officer

## **HOLDERNESS CONSERVATION COMMISSION 2004 REPORT**

The major focus of the commission in 2004 continued to be the town conservation properties and easements. Members of the commission visit all on a regular basis, both for trail repairs and LCIP related duties. LCIP stands for Land Conservation Investment Program. Those duties involve monitoring one easement and two properties, the Pilote Forest and the Pemi Riverside Park. Both of those properties were purchased with LCIP funds. LCIP has now been transformed into the Land Conservation and Heritage Investment Program. We are investigating getting funds from the latter program. It is important that the Town continue to support our efforts in contributing to the Town's Conservation Fund.

The Commission continues to be strongly interested in the protection of the local environment, particularly with respect to water (streams, lakes and wetlands). It is important to protect the local watersheds and the streams that flow out of those watersheds into Squam Lake and the Pemigewasset River. The Commission has worked closely with Squam Lakes Association and the Squam Lakes Conservation Trust on those matters. The north end of River Street has now been incorporated into a wellhead protection zone for the Town of Plymouth. Holderness retains the right of co-inspection in actions involving that wellhead protection zone. It is very important for the Town of Holderness to protect the gravel-pack aquifers associated with the Intervale area and the Town should strongly adhere to existing planning and zoning regulations with respect to actions in that area.

We have continued our cooperative arrangement with Plymouth State University with respect to the PSU Day program. Students from the college cleaned up on the Holderness side of Livermore Falls, and the Pemi Riverside Park property. We are also hoping in the spring of 2005 to have students from the Holderness School do a trail project on the Pilote Forest. The Commission continues to work on developing a trail system that would include access to the Pilote Forest from the Central School via the Town Forest. Such a trail would allow Central School students to do natural history studies and also community service work. We've met with both school officials and local residents about the project. We are also continuing work on the development of a formal town-wide system of trails that would allow users to hike from the town center to Plymouth. We are actively seeking out local residents to work with us on this project.

The Commission continues to deal on a regular basis with items related to docks, wetlands permits, etc. We work closely with the Town Compliance Officer, Richard Mardin, on those matters. We've begun a plan of visiting all the prime wetlands in the Town of Holderness. So far, we have visited three of those. In an onsite visit to the wetland adjacent to Butternut Lane we noticed a problem and provided the Compliance Officer with information on that problem which subsequently has been fixed. We spent a large amount of time dealing with the issue of the gravel pit/prime wetland at the Pemi Fish and Game Club.

We received this past summer a full set of Squam Lakes Watershed maps. These have been laminated and are available at the Town Office. We will be working with the Lake Region Planning Commission and the Town Planning Commission to determine how to best use those maps in the future. We, along with the PSU Center for the Environment, sponsored a joint meeting of all conservation commissions associated with the Pemigewasset and Baker River drainages in November. We plan to do a similar meeting for the Squam Lake Watershed commissions in the coming year.

Commissioner Lynne Morrison resigned. The Commission thanks Lynn for her work as a member of the Commission. Mike Barney was appointed as a new Commissioner. Barbara Currier continues to be a faithful attendee to our meetings as the representative from the Selectboard

The Commission meets the third Wednesday at 7:00PM at the town hall every month except for the summer months. Special meetings and field inspections are sometimes held in between regular meetings. If you have an interest in the work of the Commission or would like to become a member of the Commission, please contact the Town Administrator at the Town Office. All proceedings of the Commission are open to the public and we welcome all comments and any offers of assistance. The Commission maintains a website at: <http://www.holdernessconservationcommission.org>

Submitted by:  
Mike Barney  
Jacque Jewell  
Anne Packard  
Reggie Pettitt  
Larry Spencer, Chairman  
Barbara Currier, Selectboard Representative

### **CURRENT USE 2004 REPORT**

|                    |             |
|--------------------|-------------|
| TOTAL PARCELS..... | 221         |
| TOTAL ACRES .....  | 11,198      |
| TOTAL VALUE.....   | \$1,194,607 |

## **HOLDERNESS FIRE-RESCUE DEPARTMENT 2004 REPORT**

The Holderness Fire-Rescue Department was busy in 2004 with, coincidentally, the same number of calls as 2003. Of those 277 calls, medical aid, rescues, and mutual aid responses rose noticeably while motor vehicle accidents declined. The Department also responded to four forestry incidents this year, while we were lucky enough to have had none in 2003.

The Department acquired some new equipment in 2004. A statewide grant program upgraded our in-vehicle and hand-held radios to the new "high band" standard. Generous citizens gave us a Ford Expedition, a Zodiac inflatable boat and motor, and a lawn mower. Most importantly, there are now several Automated External Defibrillators (AED's) around Town.

Early defibrillation is considered the key to surviving cardiac arrest, and AED's can now be found at the Squam Lakes Natural Science Center, Chocorua Island Chapel, the PSU Field House, and in the Holderness Police cruiser. These AED's are relatively inexpensive and designed to be used by the general public. If any business, group, or individual wants to learn more about AED's or CPR, please call Chief Mardin at the Station.

Someone pointed out at a meeting last summer that we were, as a group, getting a bit gray. This resulted in an active recruitment drive through which we gained nine volunteers, most of whom are under 30, and seven of whom are currently earning their Firefighter Level One certifications. We are also lucky to have two high school students in our Explorer program.

One member retired in 2004. Dave Dupuis, although still a Fire Ward, stepped down from active duty after 30 years as a volunteer firefighter, 16 of them with Holderness. Dave, who was also the Elf behind Operation Santa for the last five years, will be missed.

Operation Santa provided merry Christmases for 38 children from 19 families this year and we are grateful to the businesses and individuals who made that possible.

Another highlight of 2004 was the finalization of road names and house numbers for the Enhanced 9-1-1 identification program. Although Holderness may have lost a little rural charm, we here at the Fire Department are glad we can find you.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kimberly Carson  
Clerk

## **HOLDERNESS FIRE-RESCUE DEPARTMENT 2004 CALLS**

|                              |            |
|------------------------------|------------|
| MEDICAL AID .....            | 128        |
| RESCUE .....                 | 10         |
| MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENTS..... | 35         |
| VEHICLE FIRES .....          | 4          |
| MUTUAL AID.....              | 32         |
| STRUCTURE FIRES .....        | 2          |
| CHIMNEY FIRES .....          | 3          |
| FURNACE.....                 | 1          |
| ELECTRICAL .....             | 1          |
| LIGHTNING .....              | 0          |
| FORESTRY .....               | 4          |
| ALARM ACTIVATIONS .....      | 24         |
| SMOKE INVESTIGATIONS.....    | 4          |
| ARCING WIRES.....            | 6          |
| FUEL SPILLS.....             | 6          |
| HAZ MAT .....                | 1          |
| SERVICE .....                | 5          |
| OTHER .....                  | 11         |
| <b>TOTAL.....</b>            | <b>277</b> |

## **FOREST FIRE WARDEN 2004 REPORT**

The 2004 forest fire season began with the Warden and the Deputy Warden Training Session during April, in which we had four people attend.

On April 19 the towns in our region were in the Class 5 fire classification – the most extreme for fire danger. In this condition small fires will spread very rapidly and will be very difficult to extinguish. Severe spotting may occur and mop-up will require a great deal of effort.

At 3 PM we were called to Meredith Neck Road to help with a first alarm forest fire that was burning on both sides of the Road, fanned by strong winds coming off the lake.

At 4:28 PM we received a call from Red Hill Tower that they were observing a lot of smoke showing off Route 3 in the area of the Transfer Station. Upon the arrival of the personnel who were left in Town, Deputy Hansen immediately called for a first alarm as the fire was threatening two cabins on the shore of White Oak Pond. Because of all of the other fires in the area, our first alarm companies were already involved fighting fires elsewhere, thus we received help from Laconia, Tilton, Northfield, Warren, Wentworth, New Hampton, and Ashland. The acres burned on this fire totaled 5.8 and cost \$2,167.91 to extinguish.

On April 20 we received a call concerning two brush piles burning on Perch Pond Road. We found the property owner did not have a permit to burn, thus he paid \$376.19 for our response.

During the remainder of the season conditions were wetter – we never got above a Class 3 fire day. Ultimately the fall rains arrived and the season ended.

We issued 381 permits for the entire season. Be sure to call the Fire Station at 968-449 or the Town Office at 968-3537 for a fire permit before you burn – it's the law and can be costly if you fail to give us a call.

Respectfully submitted,  
Richard Marden, Holderness Fire Warden



## **HOLDERNESS FREE LIBRARY TRUSTEES'**

### **2004 REPORT**

The primary focus during 2004 was the building improvement plan. Excavating the perimeter of the building, sealing the foundation, the installation of proper drainage and covering the window wells with plastic covers rectified the long-standing problem of a damp cellar. Adrian Robie was the contractor for that project. While the ground was torn up, new exterior lampposts were wired to code and outfitted with new lamps. Holes around the perimeter of the eaves were sealed to eliminate bats. The exterior trim was given a new coat of paint.

On the interior the goal was to better utilize the basement space once the moisture problem was eliminated. A steel beam replaced the lally columns supporting the second floor of the addition creating a barrier free room. To maximize the view to the outdoors and the channel, the windows and exterior door were reconfigured. Upgraded wiring and lighting fixtures, fresh paint and new carpeting have combined to recreate a pleasant area that will be used as a multi-purpose room for the library and the community at large. The furnace room's interior walls have been fireproofed, and a storage area has been created with the addition of a partition.

The summer months at the library cause a significant increase in library usage. Seasonal residents, their guests and area tourists create extra challenges for the library and the staff. To keep pace with demand, the library now has two Internet accessible computers, a copy machine and a fax machine for patron use. Two part time summer employees, Ray Beeson and Lydia Miller, assisted Librarian Suzanne Peoples in providing patron service. Sara Weinberg volunteered to conduct a summer-time story hour for preschoolers once a week for a month. Additionally, two regular volunteers, Myrtle Holland and Isabelle Rollison, contributed their time to the operation of the library. A sincere thank you is extended to all of them for commendable dedication and work.

The library's "Friends" group held its annual "Book, Bake & Plant Sale" on a cold windy day over Memorial Day weekend. The "50 cent Santa Sale" made its appearance this year at the Town Hall due to the renovation work going on at the library. Judging from the number of donated items and eager shoppers, it is likely that in future years the sale will continue to be held at the Town Hall in order to have enough space. The members of the "Friends" group voted this year to make a contribution toward the acquisition of furnishings for the newly created multi-purpose room. Successful fund-raising events require so much from so many. Your efforts compound to the benefit of our community. Thank you all.

A generous contribution to the library illustrates the talent, creativity, and commitment of one of the library trustees, Susan Beeson. The area of the library dedicated to children needed some visual interest and excitement. With that in mind, Susan created a big, bold, colorful mural, which was applied to the walls in that corner. Comprised of a wide assortment of memorable storybook characters, it provided a

bright, cheery space for the youngsters. The mural looks terrific, Susan. Thank you so much. Come on in, with or without children, and see how many of the figures you can name. There is a lot going on in your local library. Check it out !

Respectfully submitted,  
Sandy Ray on behalf of the Library Trustees.  
Amanda Loud  
Larry Webster  
Kay Hanson  
Susan Beeson  
Sandy Ray

## **HOLDERNESS FREE LIBRARY DIRECTORS' 2004 REPORT**

### **LIBRARY HOURS**

Monday & Wednesday 10am-6pm. Friday 10am-5pm. Saturday 10am-1pm.

E-Mail: [holdernessfreelibrary@adelphia.net](mailto:holdernessfreelibrary@adelphia.net)

Web Page: [holdernessfreelibrary.org](http://holdernessfreelibrary.org)

Telephone: 968-7066

### **STATISTICS**

|             | 2002   | 2003   | 2004   |
|-------------|--------|--------|--------|
| Circulation |        |        |        |
| Adult Items | 7,775  | 7,905  | 7,965  |
| Child Items | 5,024  | 2,994  | 1,971  |
| Total Items | 12,799 | 10,899 | 10,036 |

### **PATRONS**

|                          |       |       |       |
|--------------------------|-------|-------|-------|
| (Families<br>Registered) | 1,250 | 1,366 | 1,431 |
|--------------------------|-------|-------|-------|

|          |        |        |        |
|----------|--------|--------|--------|
| HOLDINGS | 16,136 | 15,829 | 16,462 |
|----------|--------|--------|--------|

In accordance with the goals of the library to provide materials and opportunities for education and recreation the library sponsored two outstanding storytellers during the year. Both Steve Blunt and Jean Armstrong entertained audiences with high quality performances geared to adults as well as children. To highlight local artisans and promote appreciation and awareness of art in its many forms periodic exhibits have been on view throughout the past year. Hand hooked rugs and hangings comprised the first exhibit in the spring and early summer. Photography exhibits of the four seasons in New Hampshire were on display from late summer into the fall. An exhibit of traditional and contemporary quilts and assorted quilted items followed. At Christmas, 1940's era Christmas cards and ornaments were on display. The search is on for future exhibits. Contact the library if you have an idea for an exhibit. Personal collections of high quality such as antiques, art, sculpture, ceramics, photography, books and the like are also appropriate. You need not craft the items personally.

Holderness Central Schools' 5th and 6th grade Book Discussion Group met at the library for their final discussion at the end of June. The group included teachers and parents of the students.

Again this year, we request that book donations be saved until May for the Friends' annual sales. We no longer have storage room for donated materials in the basement.

Respectfully submitted  
Suzanne Peoples  
Library Director